



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE  
1220 N Street, Room A-372  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## PEST EXCLUSION ADVISORY

NO. 21-2007

DATE: August 30, 2007

TO: All County Agricultural Commissioners

FROM: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

SUBJECT: **Interception of Asian Citrus Psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*)**

On August 2, 2007, San Mateo County inspector Vincente Rodriguez intercepted two adult, Q-rated, Asian citrus psyllids (*Diaphorina citri*) in a box of curry leaves (*Bergera koenigii*=*Murraya koenigii*) from Kenny Farms in Kaneohe, Hawaii (PDR 1463970). California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials re-inspected the four boxes included in this shipment on August 24, 2007. No additional Asian citrus psyllids were found. All boxes were double-bagged and destroyed on August 27, 2007.

If Asian citrus psyllid is found in any shipment, county inspectors must immediately notify their local CDFA Pest Exclusion office. All shipments found to be infested with Asian citrus psyllid or any other mobile pest must be **safeguarded** (double-bagged, stored in an enclosed cooler, etc) during the holding period and/or prior to destruction to minimize the risk of the pest escaping.

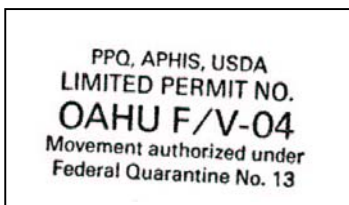
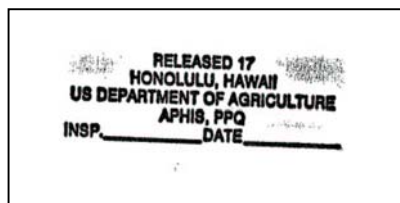


Photos taken by Jennifer Romero, CDFA Plant Pathologist

The Asian citrus psyllid is the insect vector of the pathogen that causes citrus greening, a devastating disease of citrus. Citrus greening is not known to occur in Hawaii. However, this interception confirms the vector for this disease can enter California from Hawaii on curry leaves (a member of the citrus (Rutaceae) family.)

Curry leaves are enterable from Hawaii under Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 318.13. Curry leaves are not prohibited from Hawaii by Citrus Pests State Exterior Quarantine (CCR 3250) or Citrus Canker Federal Quarantine (CFR 301.75). A Federal Domestic Quarantine Order for citrus greening ([http://www.nationalplantboard.org/docs/cg\\_federal\\_order\\_2006.pdf](http://www.nationalplantboard.org/docs/cg_federal_order_2006.pdf)) is in effect and prohibits hosts of Asian citrus psyllid from being shipped into citrus producing states, but only from Florida where citrus greening is known to occur.

The USDA/Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) inspects all shipments of herbs (and fruit, vegetable and cut flowers) sent from Hawaii to the U.S. Mainland. After an inspection with negative findings for federal-actionable pests, USDA/PPQ stamps all airway bills and bills of lading with a “released” stamp. The following are examples of stamps that may be used on shipments that have passed the USDA/PPQ inspections in Hawaii:

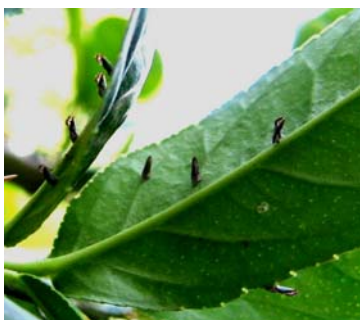


Shipments of small quantities of boxes shipped via FedEx or UPS may also have the “released” stamp on the box. If California inspectors find any shipment of fresh herbs, fruit, vegetables, or cut flowers from Hawaii without a “released” stamp on **either** the boxes or the airway bills, the shipment must be placed on hold. Immediately notify the CDFA Pest Exclusion office at the number on this advisory. Shipments that do not get inspected prior to shipment from Hawaii are in violation of federal regulations.

For the shipment of Asian citrus psyllid-infested curry leaves from Kenny Farms, neither the boxes nor the airway bills associated with the shipment had a “released” stamp. The California State Plant Health Director’s office has been notified of this possible violation.

#### Identification of Asian citrus psyllid:

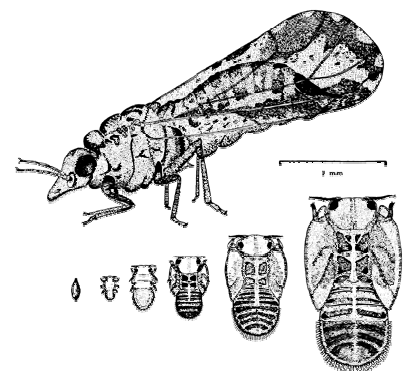
The adult Asian citrus psyllid is very small (approximately 3-4 mm long). Adults will jump or fly short distances when disturbed; **therefore, it is important to safeguard shipments during inspections and if shipments are placed on hold.** Yellow-orange, almond shaped eggs may be seen on the tips of new growth. Nymphs, most commonly yellow-orange, feed exclusively on new growth. When disturbed, nymphs will move in a slow, steady manner. Adults feed with their bodies lifted at a 30-45° angle off the leaf surface.



Asian citrus psyllid feeding adults



Asian citrus psyllid eggs



<http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu>

To learn more about the Asian citrus psyllid or citrus greening, see University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources publication at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8205.pdf>.

For questions about this advisory, please contact Wendi Wilkinson at [wwilkinson@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:wwilkinson@cdfa.ca.gov) or any Interior Pest Exclusion Biologist at (916) 653-1440.